

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CU-04 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 AID-20

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6424

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0464

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BU

SUBJ: YOUTH PARA

REF: STATE 070302/1

1. EMB SOFIA DOES NOT HAVE FORMAL YOUTH PROGRAM
AND REFTEL DETAIL IS ACADEMIC EXERCISE IN BULGARIA
WHERE RESTRICTIVE ATMOSPHERE, OUR LIMITED RESOURCES,
AND US POLICY DECISION TO MAINTAIN LOW PROFILE SEVERELY
LIMIT OUR ACTIVITY VIS- A- VIS YOUTH.

2. YOUTH CATEGORIES. IN GENERAL WE GIVE 50 PER CENT EQUAL
WEIGHT TO POLITICAL LEADERS AND YOUNG BUREAUCRATS.
IN FACT, IN A COUNTRY WHERE COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERSHIP
A SINE QUO NON FOR ADVANCEMENT ALMOST EVERY FIELD ,
DIFFICULT MAKE DISTINCTION. BULGARIAN COMMUNIST PARTY
AND ITS YOUTH ORGANIZATION, KOMSOMOL, ARE ONLY INSTITU-
TIONS FROM WHICH FUTURE LEADERSHIP LIKELY TO FLOW.

3. OBJECTIVES. OVERWHELMING PART OF LIMITED
EMBASSY YOUTH EFFORT DEVOTED TO IDENTIFICATION OF
AND ACCESS TO KEY FUTURE LEADERSHIP. PRESENT STATE
OF US- BULGARIAN RELATIONS PRECLUDES OTHER OBJECTIVES,
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BUT CONTACT WORK OF COURSE DESIGNED TO CREATE MORE FAVORABLE YOUTH ATTITUDES TOWARD US.

4. RESOURCES. ALTHOUGH PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN BLOCKED BY BULGARIAN SIDE PAST TWO YEARS, EMBASSY WOULD WEIGHT CU FULL YEAR ACADEMIC GRANT TO ONE VISITING PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AT 80 PER CENT VERSUS ONLY 20 PER CENT FOR CU EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL GRANTS TO BULGARIAN TEACHERS OF ENGLISH.

5. RELATIVE IMPORTANCE TO YOUTH. EMBASSY WOULD HAVE TO RATE IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH AS SEPARATE ENTITY AS LOW. ALTHOUGH; THERE ARE NO DOUBT IMPORTANT AND DYNAMIC YOUNG PEOPLE, THEY ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO CHALLENGE OLDER PARTY LEADERSHIP IN SHORT TERM. NOR ARE THERE ANY INDICATIONS THAT PRESENT LEVEL OF PARTY AND STATE MANAGERS WILLING TO RELINGUISH THEIR ROLE. MOST IMPORTANTLY, THERE IS NO HARD EVIDENCE OF MAJOR DIFFERENCES AFFECTING US INTERESTS BETWEEN TWO.

6. RESOURCES. FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE EMBASSY PROJECTS 5 PER CENT OF TOTAL PERSONNEL TIME DEVOTED SPECIFICALLY TO YOUTH, I. E. 10-15 MAN DAYS PER YEAR. THIS EFFORT DEVOTED TO IDENTIFICATION OF LEADERSHIP AND, WHERE POSSIBLE, CONTACT WORK. RESPONSIBILITY THIS EFFORT DIVIDED 50 PER CENT STATE, 50 PER CENT USIA. PROGRAM RESOURCES FOR YOUTH ARE 50 PER CENT CU BUDGET, 20 PER CENT USIA BUDGET.
HOUSTON

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